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OPERATIONS GROUP FILE

BBC

BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION
MONITORING SERVICE
CAVERSHAM PARK READING RG4 8TZ
TELEGRAMS AND CABLES MONITOR READING TELEX
TELEX 848318 TELEPHONE 0734 472742

10th July, 1980

Dear John,

As Paul will already have told you, we had [redacted] and [redacted] visit us here on Monday of this week and gave them both a good insight into our joint operations. Impressions of Ahlers remain very favourable. He apologetically said all he could give us to help with our financial difficulties [redacted] too were having money problems. He is evidently impressed by the scale of our work and asked for details of our (BBC) budget, staff numbers, coverage and output to show his Administrative Board to try to convince them that [redacted] should be putting more effort into monitoring. He very definitely wants to keep up and [redacted] association with us both.

I would guess, however, that [redacted] first priority is to see that [redacted] news and programme departments, but, equally, by the Federal Government. I think this is where he will initially want to put any extra resources he can obtain. The expansion of [redacted] monitoring effort will, I suspect, be secondary (and, for our part, of dubious advantage unless their performance improves dramatically. We would much prefer to get more money from them to help us maintain our monitoring effort).

There was some discussion of the East German Survey we jointly conducted some months ago and Treiss will do his best to adjust processing to meet our more detailed specification. He brought with him some [redacted] reports on East German TV programmes which we are studying. I asked if he could survey possible locations for monitoring East German FM transmissions for use in the event of a political upheaval in the GDR and he said he would try to arrange it for the Autumn.

Treiss is obviously a much happier man under the new management, and I think we can both be cautiously optimistic about [redacted] role in the partnership for the future.

With all good wishes,

Yours ever,

John

John Rae
Head of Monitoring Service

[redacted]
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